(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan did not telecast full coverage of India-Bangladesh Cricket Test Match from 10th to 13th December, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure full telecast of such events of mass public interest in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that the telecast rights of the said match played in Bangladesh were not with them.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that they acquire the rights of sporting events held outside India, including cricket matches, based on its programme requirements and availability of funds for the purpose. Some of the noteworthy telecasts in the past include the World Cup Cricket Tournament 2003, Athens Olympics 2004, Asia Cup Cricket, 2004.

Serials on Indian Classical Literature

3322. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has given up the plan to produce serials on Indian classical literature and great story writers;

(b) if so, the details of the serials which were proposed to be produced based on the Indian classical literature; and

(c) the reasons for giving up the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The norm for selection of stories for the Indian Classic series is Sahitya Academy Award winning works, Jananpith Award winning writers, and other prominent classics. The selection of serials has not yet been finalized.

(c) Does not arise.